

# New Hampshire Bird Records



**Summer 2001**

**Vol. 20, No. 2**

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## About the Cover

This illustration of a Boreal Owl was done by Mike Milligan, Sanctuaries Manager for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. Mike is also a talented birder and naturalist with a wide range of knowledge. His illustration highlights the remarkable sighting of an adult Boreal Owl in the White Mountain National Forest at the end of July (see page 16). There was more excitement to follow in August with the discovery of juvenile Boreals in the same area. The next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, Fall 2001, will feature an article about these owls by Fall Editor, Steve Mirick.

## In This Issue

- Field Season Highlights
- Common Nighthawk Survey
- Massabesic Bird Banding Station
- White & Seavey Island Summary
- Powerline habitat for shrubland birds
- Answer to last issue's photo quiz and a new challenge
- Bird habitat protection efforts in Amherst and Durham

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*New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)* is published quarterly by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). Bird sightings are submitted to ASNH and are edited for publication. A computerized printout of all sightings in a season is available for a fee. To order a printout, purchase back issues, or volunteer your observations for *NHBR*, please contact the Managing Editor at 224-9909.

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### **New Volunteers for New Hampshire Bird Records**

**W**e are pleased to welcome **David Deifik** as the new Winter Editor. David has extensive birding experience throughout the world and is a regular contributor of sightings to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. He lives in Nashua and has been a long-time participant in the Nashua-Hollis CBC. His first season will be Winter 2001–02, which promises to be full of interesting reports.

We are also pleased to welcome another David to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. **David Donsker** will be taking on the Photo Quiz and making it a regular feature in each issue. If you have ideas, suggestions, or photos for the quiz, please contact me and I will pass them along to David.

**Sue Covino** has also been helping with promotion efforts, tackling the large task of organizing and increasing our effort to grow subscriptions.

Would you like to volunteer for *New Hampshire Bird Records*? There are a wide variety of things to do and the opportunity to work with a great crew of people. Contact me if you are interested in helping out.

### **Thank You, Alan Delorey**

Alan Delorey has been the Winter Editor of *New Hampshire Bird Records* since the Winter 1995–96 season. The publication has changed dramatically since that time, and Alan has been one of the forces that has helped it to grow. He introduced the first Christmas Bird Count statewide results table and has used his computer skills to develop a program that analyzes each year's results. When he began as an editor, the publication was just beginning to include articles, and he has contributed many over the years on a wide variety of topics. His birding expertise, attention to detail, enthusiasm, active birding, and consistent reporting have been a great asset to the publication. It was with regret that he resigned the position of Winter Editor, and he has been very helpful in making the transition to a new editor a smooth one. We look forward to his continuing involvement with *New Hampshire Bird Records* as a valued reporter and author.

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February 2002

## Summer Season: June through July

**W**hich sightings should *New Hampshire Bird Records* reporters submit? There are no hard and fast rules, but here are some guidelines to help reporters focus their efforts during the summer season.

First, it's important to understand that even though we do not publish all reports, each one plays a valuable role in creating an overall picture of a given season. All sightings also become part of a database that provides information on bird distribution for research projects, endangered species reports, and other requests for data.

Always report any birds that are unusual for the state or for the time of year. We recommend using *A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire* by Kimball C. Elkins, as a reference (available at ASNH). Report late spring migrants such as some warblers and flycatchers that are still moving during the first week of June, and early fall migrants. Adult shorebirds can be headed south as early as July 4, for instance, and some landbirds begin moving in late July.

Report colonial nesting bird sites such as Great Blue Heron rookeries or Bank Swallow burrows. Reports of erratic species such as cuckoos and crossbills are of interest, as are grassland nesting birds, which are of concern due to shrinking habitat.

Species that are confirmed to be breeding at an unusual time or location are very valuable — refer to the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* for the known distribution of breeding birds in the state (available in the ASNH store and library). Unusual behavior or breeding of a species unusual for your local area is of interest.

Reports of species sought by many birders are interesting to all. These include pelagic species and resident species that are present but not commonly seen, such as boreal, nocturnal, and secretive wetland birds. Reports of state endangered and threatened species are always valuable for the database.

### Reports for the following species were received but not listed:

Turkey Vulture	Northern Flicker	Black-and-white Warbler
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Blue Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Northern Cardinal
Killdeer	Barn Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Ring-billed Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Red-winged blackbird
Herring Gull	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	House Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
	Gray Catbird	House Finch
Belted Kingfisher	Northern Mockingbird	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	European Starling	House Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler	

*Sightings of the species listed above occurred in average numbers at expected locations, were discussed in the summaries, or are escaped exotics.*

by Bill Taffe, Summer Editor

### Weather

June opened with the rain we didn't get in April and May. It opened cold, too! After a few days, however, summer settled in with normal warmth and rainfall until mid-month, when temperatures rose several degrees above normal accompanied by another few days of rainy weather. Overall, the month was slightly warmer than normal (by about 1–2 degrees) with the eastern side of the state a bit warmer than the west.

July was somewhat the opposite: on average 2–3° cooler and slightly drier than normal. Around July 24 and 25 we had a heat wave, with the southern part of the state reaching the 90s and the north recording peak temperatures in the high 80s. Precipitation was scattered throughout the month; the northern and southern regions recorded approximately normal amounts of rain, but the center of New Hampshire — in Carroll, northern Grafton, and southern Coos counties — received 1–2" less rain than in a typical July.

### Breeding Bird Highlights

Raptors seemed to steal the show this summer in the breeding bird category. **Merlins** bred in Hanover and possibly in Plymouth. A **Boreal Owl** was seen on Mt. Pierce on July 31, and shortly thereafter, juvenile Boreal Owls were spotted. **Bald Eagles** fledged six chicks from four successful nest sites in New Hampshire.

### Rarities

Rare birds were seen all over New Hampshire in Summer 2001. The North Country had several outstanding species. A **Northern Wheatear** presented itself to members of both the Capital and Monadnock Chapters of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, and over 20 birders were able to view the bird for almost 45 minutes at fairly close range. This is the sixth state record for this species.

The southern part of New Hampshire had its own share of rare and very colorful visitors. A **Painted Bunting** visited New Castle, a **Yellow-**



Northern Wheatear  
by Iain C. MacLeod

**headed Blackbird** was in East Kingston, and a **European Goldfinch** visited a feeder in Barrington. In the seacoast area, a **Least Bittern** appeared at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and an **American Oystercatcher** flew by a coastal observer in Rye. Another American Oystercatcher was seen on the Isles of Shoals.

The Isles of Shoals hosted a few other unusual species. **Purple Sandpipers** were seen on July 2, 6, and 14, a very unusual sighting for this season. Alcids were represented with sightings of both a **Puffin** and a **Razorbill**.

## **Ornithological Project Data**

In addition to the data submitted by reporters, several ornithological projects yielded data on birds in New Hampshire during Summer 2001. For the fifth summer, Audubon Society of New Hampshire biologists, under the supervision of Diane DeLuca, worked on the Tern Restoration Project on White and Seavey Islands at the Isles of Shoals. Dan Hayward and Andrew LeFrancois were the project biologists this summer. In addition to daily reports on tern numbers, they observed many other species on our coastal islands (see article on page 37). Chris Martin kept records on Bald Eagles, Osprey, and Peregrine Falcons throughout the state. Diane Wells studied the role powerline rights-of-way play in providing nesting habitat for shrubland birds (see article on page 34). John Munier and Dorothy Fitch continued their MAPS banding station at the Massabesic Audubon Center (see article on page 35). There were bird surveys done in the White Mountains and other projects as well. As noted, there are articles on a few of these projects in this issue, and data from several of these projects appear throughout the summaries and listings.

**Note:** *Sightings from the powerline rights-of-way study often do not include a date. These surveys took place throughout the summer season and most reports encompass a range of dates from May or June through early August.*

## **Endangered and Threatened Species**

In October 2000, the New Hampshire Endangered and Threatened Species list was updated to reflect current conditions (see “New Hampshire’s Endangered Bird List Revised” by Rebecca W. Suomala, *New Hampshire Bird Records*, 19(2) Summer 2000 issue). At present there are twelve species considered “endangered” in New Hampshire and seven more are considered “threatened.” Of New Hampshire’s 12 endangered species, ten were reported this summer: Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Upland Sandpiper, Piping Plover, Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Least Tern, Purple Martin, Sedge Wren. No reports were received of Pied-billed Grebe or Golden Eagle. If observers note any of these endangered species, please be sure to report them.

**Note:** *Species designated as **endangered** or **threatened** refer to their status on the New Hampshire Endangered and Threatened Species list. A **species of conservation concern** refers to this state classification by the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department.*

# Loons, Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels, Gannets & Cormorants

**A Red-throated Loon** appeared off Pulpit Rocks in early June, a nice find, as this species is only seen in about every other year. Greater Shearwater made appearances at the coast and offshore, and a **Manx Shearwater** was seen flying south near Pulpit Rocks. A good number of Northern Gannets and more than usual numbers of **Great Cormorants** were reported. The Great Cormorant is not often seen in late June or the month of July.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				
06-05	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
<b>Common Loon</b>				
06-06	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-29	3	Pittsburg	Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-29	2	Pittsburg	Timberland	E. Nielsen
06-30	3		NH coast	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-21	4	Warren	Lake Tarleton, WMNF	J. Williams
07-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-28	1	Wakefield	Lovell Lake	G. Prazar
<b>Greater Shearwater</b>				
06-02	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
07-13	4		Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick, D. Green
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>				
07-14	1	Rye	Pulpit Rock	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>				
06-26	6	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-30	20	N. Hampton	Little Boar's Head	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-09	10	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois, R. Suomala
07-13	40		Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick, D. Green
07-19	11	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
06-02	10	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
06-02	11	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-30	1		NH coast	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-04	7	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-17	1	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Mirick, L. Beattie
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
06-02	4	Durham	Mill Pond spillway	G. Prazar
06-08	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner
06-11	45	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-01	1	Allenstown	Bear Brook St. Pk.	R. Quinn, T. Vazzano
07-31	55	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
06-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-05	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Great Cormorant — cont.</b>				
06-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-30	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-11	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois, R. Suomala
07-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

## Bitterns, Herons & Egrets, Ibis New World Vultures

Several American Bittern were reported in Summer 2000 along with one **Least Bittern** observed in Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Steve Mirick noted in his Snowy Egret report (below) that there were “very few along the coast this summer.” Indeed, over the past decade, reports from the coast (excluding the Isles of Shoals) have averaged 43 Snowy Egrets, 14 Great Egrets, and 31 Glossy Ibis, whereas this year we had coastal reports of only two Great Egret, one Snowy Egret, and no Glossy Ibis. What might be the cause? In typical summers, there has been a colony of egrets and allies on Appledore Island. In the evening, flights of a few hundred Snowy and Great Egrets and Glossy Ibis are usually seen returning to their evening nest sites. Anecdotal reports indicated that during Summer 2001 these flights were significantly reduced, suggesting that there was little breeding of these species on Appledore Island during the summer. Peak numbers of Snowy and Great Egrets listed by observers on White and Seavey Islands were significantly lower than Summer 2000, which is consistent with that suggestion. A systematic study would be very useful to resolve what is happening.

Black-crowned Night Heron reports were above the average of the past decade.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>American Bittern</b>				
06-01	1	Webster	Blackwater River off Tyler Rd.	B. & H. Janeway
06-04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-05	1	Webster	Little Pond	B. & H. Janeway
06-05	2	Errol	Harpers Meadow	S. & M. Turner, et al.
06-10	2	Whitefield	airport marsh	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-17	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. & L. Chase
06-20	2	Stewartstown	Back Pond	D. Killam
06-30	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, J. Salander
06-30	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-04	1	Rumney	Quincy Bog	J. Williams, B. Taffe
07-05	1	Danbury	North Rd. wetland	P. Newbern
07-12	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	C. Martin, E. Saxon
<b>Least Bittern</b>				
06-19	1	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick



<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>				
06-08	10	Webster	swamp, n. end of Gerrish Rd.	B. Janeway, L. Harveyober
06-19	5	Benton	Owls Head Cliff	C. Martin
06-29	5	Pittsburg		E. Nielsen
07-14	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois, D. DeLuca
07-27		Errol	near Eames Road	C. Martin
<b>Great Egret</b>				
07-18	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	D. Wells
07-25	4	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-29	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk., nw. of beach	J. White
<b>Snowy Egret</b>				
06-05	12	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-30	1		NH coast	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-02	11	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
<b>Green Heron</b>				
06-02	1	Plymouth	over Rt. 25	A. Ports
06-14	1	Hopkinton	Contoocook R. near Rt. 89, Exit 6	C. Martin
06-17	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. & L. Chase
06-24	1	Chester	Spring Brook farm, Rt. 102	K. Reid
06-27	6	Rochester	Milton Rd.	N. Kierstead
07-20	2	Rye	near Hemmingways Restaurant	A. & B. Delorey
07-26	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
07-28	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
07-29	2	Northfield	Deadwood Pond	P. Hunt
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>				
06-17	6	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-26	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Aaronian
07-15	1	Hopkinton	Contoocook R., Contoocook	M. Amaral
07-16	8	New Castle	US Coast Guard dock	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
07-18	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	D. Wells
07-27	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>				
06-14	8	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

## Waterfowl

The Canada Geese reported at Bear Brook State Park were two families with five or six young. Both Wood Duck reports consisted of adults with young, and the American Black Duck was sitting on a nest with nine eggs. Throughout the summer, over a hundred Common Eider were at White and Seavey Islands, reaching the peak number (reported below) on June 16. The Long-tailed Duck (formerly Oldsquaw) was a very unusual summer bird and was with the group of White-winged Scoter and Red-breasted Mergansers. Scoter are also usually quite uncommon during the summer.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
06-08	150	Monroe	Rt. 135	S. Turner, E. Emory
06-09	73	Plymouth	Chaison Rd.	J. Williams
06-10	56	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-14	43	Gilsum	over Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-01	10	Allenstown	Bear Brook St. Pk.	R. Quinn, T. Vazzano
<b>Brant</b>				
06-05	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-05	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
06-23	4	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
07-01	12	Allenstown	Bear Brook St. Pk.	R. Quinn, T. Vazzano
<b>American Black Duck</b>				
06-11	1	Wentworths Location	Magalloway R., Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				
06-03	1	Laconia	Lily Pond wetland	P. Hunt
06-03	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
06-03	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier
06-29	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Common Eider</b>				
06-08	38	Rye	Pulpit Rock	A.& B. Delorey
06-16	252	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>				
06-05	12		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-30	5	N. Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-07	5	N. Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick
07-14	11	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Black Scoter</b>				
06-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-28	3	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Oldsquaw</b>				
06-30	1	N. Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-07	1	N. Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>				
06-05	1	Errol	Sweat Meadow	S.& M. Turner, et al.
07-01	1	Pittsburg	Timberland	E. Nielsen
<b>Common Merganser</b>				
06-22	9	Newbury	Sunapee Lake	R. Quinn
07-15	12	Cambridge	Lake Umbagog	B. Taffe
07-29	2	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R., downtown	P. Hunt, C. Burda
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>				
06-30	1	N. Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick, D. Abbott

This was a good year for raptors, a very good year. Eight **Bald Eagle** territorial pairs occupied six nests. Breeding took place at four of the nests, and a record six chicks fledged. Peregrine Falcons occupied more territories than in previous years (13) and ten pairs successfully produced 22 fledglings, a number just slightly less than the 25 fledglings produced in both 2000 and 2001. Osprey likewise had a banner year. Twenty-eight of the 38 nests were active; 17 were successful and 42 young fledged. The success was more pronounced in the southern part of the state due to inclement weather during the breeding season in the far north.

**Merlins** were the stars of the summer, nesting far south of their usual locations. In a nest next to the Dartmouth Golf Course, two adults fledged five young. The nest was well observed for over a month — from incubation through fledging. In Plymouth, a Merlin family was reported from July 15 to the end of the month with various mixtures of two adults and two juveniles. Although there was no direct evidence of nesting, neighbors near the cemetery the Merlins were frequenting remarked that the adults had “been around all summer,” raising questions about possible breeding.



Cooper's Hawk  
by Andrea Robbins

Biologists of the WMNF found four Northern Goshawk nests in the WMNF and another pair in Bethlehem. I was fortunate to find another a ten-minute walk from my backyard and observe the three fledglings.

Cooper's Hawks provided summer raptor interest also. George Gavutis first reported a “Coop” on June 22 and saw it almost daily for the next month, terrorizing Red-winged Blackbird and Tree Swallow nests. The tables turned when, on July 20, an immature hawk was harassed by the blackbirds and kingbirds. Another Cooper's Hawk nested and raised young in the forest behind Audubon's Silk Farm Nature Center, offering good opportunities to see young being fed.

In his report on a Sharp-shinned Hawk, Dave Killam noted that it “took a young, male Hairy Woodpecker.”

Reports that include bird behavior are very welcome, adding another dimension to bird study.

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Osprey</b>				
06-17	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
06-20	1	Monroe	Connecticut River	S. Turner
06-22	1	Sandwich	Red Hill Pond	C. Martin
06-23	2	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-24	1	Columbia	near Cranberry Bog Pond	C. Bretton, K. Bronson
07-02	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Road	E. Nielsen
07-06	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
07-07	1	Wolfeboro	Lake Winnepesaukee	K. Acerno
07-22	1	Northfield	Deadwood Pond	P. Hunt
07-28	1	Seabrook	marina	A.& B. Delorey

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Bald Eagle</b>				
06-04	1	Lancaster	Connecticut River	S. & M. Turner
06-10	1	Shelburne	Androscoggin River	S. & M. Turner
06-14	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
06-14	1	Errol	Sweat Meadows	S. & M. Turner
06-28	3	Errol	Tidswell Point	C. Martin
07-03	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	E. Nielsen
07-10	1	Wentworths Location	Magalloway River	S. Turner
07-27	1	Canterbury	sod farm pond	R. Quinn
07-30	3	Monroe	Connecticut River	E. Emery, P. Powers
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				
06-11	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	A. & B. Delorey
06-17	1	Lyman	Parker Hill	E. Emery
07-05	1	Danbury	Danbury Bog	P. Newbern
07-12	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	C. Martin, E. Saxon
07-30	1	Milan	E. Milan Rd., s. of airport	K. Dube
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>				
06-09	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-22	1	Plymouth	Chaison Rd.	J. Williams
06-24	1	Columbia	near Cranberry Bog Pond	R. Quinn, C. Bretton, K. Bronson
07-10	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>				
06-04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-05	2	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. & M. Suomala, P. Furness
06-09	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
06-30	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>				
06-07	3	Canterbury	Rocky Pond off Rt. 106	I. Boles
06-18	1	New London	Bunker Loop trail	R. Vernon
06-22	4	Rumney	Quincy Rd.	B. Taffe
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>				
06-13	2	Sandwich	Chapman Bird Sanctuary	T. Vazzano
06-25	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-05	1	Alexandria	off Mt. Cardigan Rd.	P. Newbern
07-27	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
07-30	1	Lyman	Ogontz Rd.	S. & M. Turner
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>				
07-07	1	Errol	Round Pond	K. Dube
07-14	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
07-29	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-29	1	Lancaster	Rt. 3 south	D. Killam
<b>American Kestrel</b>				
	2	Lee	powerline study site, Snell Rd. w.	D. Wells, C. Manning, J. Thompson
06-14	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-26	1	Columbia	Gray Road	R. Quinn
06-26	1	Columbia	near Cranberry Bog Pond	R. Quinn
07-14	4	Northfield	View St.	P. Hunt
07-24	4	Warren	Breezy Point, WMNF	J. Williams, D. Hrdlicka

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Merlin</b>				
06-03	6	Hanover	Dartmouth Golf Course	B. Johnstone
06-06	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-11	2	Wentworths Location	Magalloway R., Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis, M. Gegg
06-15	1	Pittsburg	Rt. 3	R. Woodward
06-28	2	Errol	behind L. L. Cote store, Rts. 16/26	C. Martin
07-09	7	Hanover	Dartmouth Golf Course	W. Scott
07-18	4	Plymouth	Riverside Cemetery	J. Williams

#### **Peregrine Falcon**

06-17	1	Berlin	Androscoggin R. just below city	G. Gavutis
07-19	1	Berlin	PPA smokestack	C. Martin

## **Grouse & Allies**

**E**ric Nielsen found Ring-necked Pheasant in Pittsburg, an unusual find for the North Country. U.S. Forest Service personnel found 30 Ruffed Grouse in six coveys of hens and chicks in a Forest Service Timber Sale Area. Another large group was observed along East Inlet Road. The Wild Turkey with young at Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge was a rare report from “north of the notch.” New Hampshire Bird Records sightings have been mostly confined to south of the White Mountain National Forest.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>				
07-01	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>				
06-21	30	Benton	US Forest Service timber sale	J. Williams, D. Govatski, C. Weloth
06-29	26	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-02	9	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Road	E. Nielsen
07-06	9	New London	Pingree Rd.	R. Vernon
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>				
06-23	1	Cambridge	Rt. 16	K. Dube, B. Sommers, J. Rising, et al.
06-28	1	Errol	Tidswell Point woods road	C. Martin
06-28	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Wild Turkey</b>				
July	22	Center Harbor	Old Meredith Rd.	J. Merrill, et al.
06-11	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	A.& B. Delorey
07-19	18	New London	Pingree Rd.	A.& R. Vernon
<b>Northern Bobwhite</b>				
07-02	1	Concord	Beaver Meadows Village	P. Niswander
07-19	1	Warner	Pumpkin Hill Rd.	J. Bliss

## Waders and Shorebirds

**A Sandhill Crane** was reported from Monroe for the third successive year. There was a report of another Sandhill Crane at the location where it appeared in Bradford last summer, for which documentation is unfortunately lacking. The two **American Oystercatchers** represent rarities for the coast; only four other sightings have been reported since 1990.

The **Black-bellied Plovers** seen the first week of June were probably migrants going north, but the observations seen later in the month are between the two migration periods for that species. Likewise, the Semipalmated Plover seen on June 30 was in between migration periods, although the plover at the end of July represents the beginning of peak southward migration for that plover. The **Greater Yellowlegs** at Lake Umbagog was an unusual find. The Lesser Yellowlegs seen in the Hampton Marshes probably represent the beginning of that species' southward migration. Likewise, the Solitary Sandpiper in Rye and Kensington mark that species return migration, which begins a couple of weeks later than the Lesser Yellowlegs'. Willets are reported most years during late June or early/mid July in the Seabrook or Hampton marshes, where they are known to nest. Since the July 14 report is between the migration periods of that species, it probably represents local birds.

The Piping Plover restoration project on the New Hampshire seacoast continued. In 2001, there were seven nests (two at the Hampton Beach site, five at Seabrook) which fledged a total of 15 chicks.

Spotted Sandpipers were reported daily from the Isles of Shoals, typically in numbers of about a dozen but ranging from a low of three to a high of 26. The high count of 26 reported below consisted of 11 adults and 15 chicks. Likewise, an adult and chick were seen in Durham on June 20. Ruddy Turnstones presented a "textbook" migration, appearing on the Isles of Shoals from June 1 to June 9 and then reappearing in their southward movements from July 17 to month's end. Peak numbers from each period are given below. Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers appeared at typical migration times, with peak numbers shown below, although the Least Sandpipers might have been a bit earlier. Also listed are "peeps," small members of the *Calidris* genus not distinguished to the species level.

**Purple Sandpipers** are "winter birds," with the stragglers leaving in early June. Early returnees might arrive in mid/late August, but usually not until October. The July sightings are very rare.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>				
07-31	1	Monroe	Plains Rd.	S. Turner
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				
06-04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-05	5	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-20	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	B. Taffe, A. Ports
06-22	1	Newmarket	off Bay Road	S. Mirick

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Sora</b>				
06-05	1	Errol	Harpers Meadow	S. & M. Turner
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				
06-05	18	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
06-06	8	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-18	3	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-27	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				
06-30	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-29	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>American Oystercatcher</b>				
06-15	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
06-29	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles Shoals	D. Hayward
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>				
06-05	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
06-30	1	Rye	Rt. 1	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-18	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	D. Wells
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>				
06-30	4	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-14	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>				
07-20	1	Rye	Locke Rd. pools	A. & B. Delorey
07-23	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
07-25	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>Willet</b>				
06-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-14	20	Seabrook	mussel beds	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>				
06-09	2	Livermore	Norcross Pond	R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg
06-12	1		Franconia BBS route	S. & M. Turner
06-15	4	Meredith	Moulton Farm	J. Merrill
06-20	2	Durham	Moore fields	S. Mirick
06-25	1	Newfields	railroad trestle	S. Mirick
06-29	4	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-03	15	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
07-10	26	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois, R. Suomala
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>				
06-03	2	Durham	Moore fields	S. Mirick
07-10	1	Durham	Moore fields	S. Mirick
<b>Whimbrel</b>				
06-26	7	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-14	3	Seabrook	mussel beds	A. & B. Delorey
07-25	53	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-27	1	Seabrook	mussel beds	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley
07-28	1	Rye	Pulpit Rock	A. & B. Delorey

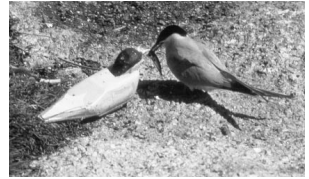
<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>				
06-06	5	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-29	23	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Red Knot</b>				
06-14	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Sanderling</b>				
07-25	13	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-28	100	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>				
07-13	14	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois, D. DeLuca
07-20	11	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>				
06-25	1	Newfields	railroad trestle marsh	S. Mirick
06-30	4		NH coast	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-03	23	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
07-10	13	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, R. Suomala, A. LeFrancois
07-20	27	Rollinsford	Salmon Falls River	S. Mirick
07-29	3	Sandwich	Rt. 113 gravel pit	T. Vazzano
<b>Calidris sp. (peeps)</b>				
06-29	14	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
07-14	56	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois, D. DeLuca
07-28	42	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				
06-03	4	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-11	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-02	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles Shoals	R. Suomala
07-06	3	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles Shoals	A. LeFrancois
07-14	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles Shoals	A. LeFrancois, D. Hayward
07-20	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles Shoals	A. LeFrancois, D. Hayward
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>				
06-30	10		NH coast	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-03	22	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
07-04	830	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-19	55	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-27	35	Hampton	Hampton marshes	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley
<b>Common Snipe</b>				
06-04	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-12	1		Franconia BBS route	S. Turner
06-29	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen



**Laughing Gulls**, a very unusual June-July species, were seen regularly throughout summer 2001 at the Isles of Shoals, with both adults and immatures reported. Representative data are listed below. There were several coastal sightings also.

A **Black-legged Kittiwake**, normally found at sea, was found after a southeasterly wind flow from an early June storm brought it to the coast.

The tern restoration work on the Isles of Shoals is covered in a separate article on page 37, so only a brief summary of the data is given here. Common Terns numbered a few hundred in early June, rising to 1000 by mid-month and peaking at 2500 in late July. An average of five Roseate Terns were present almost daily, with a peak of 13 in late July. And a few (1-5) Arctic Terns were also present all summer. Tern reports were rounded out with sightings of the very rare **Forster's Tern**, Least, and Black Terns.



*Photo by Dan Hayward of Arctic Tern courtship feeding a decoy on Seavey Is.*

The Black Tern seen along the Androscoggin River was a very nice report.

Alcids made their presence known with **Atlantic Puffins** appearing for the third successive year at the Isles of Shoals and **Razorbills** appearing for the second straight year.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Laughing Gull</b>				
06-02	2	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
06-09	3	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-18	4	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-14	2	Rye	Rye Town Beach	A.& B. Delorey
07-14	2	Rye	Pulpit Rock	A.& B. Delorey
07-15	3	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				
06-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-07	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>				
06-02	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Roseate Tern</b>				
06-30	10	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
07-27	13	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Common Tern</b>				
06-03	116		Piscataqua River from Memorial Bridge to Fort Stark	R. Suomala, K. Palfy
06-05	1	Errol	Androscoggin River	S. Turner
06-15	1000	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-15	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog	B.& B. Taffe
07-24	2500	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Arctic Tern</b>				
06-06	5	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-19	3	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Forster's Tern</b>				
07-22	2	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward
<b>Least Tern</b>				
06-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward
06-30	4	N. Hampton	North Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
<b>Black Tern</b>				
07-07	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward
07-12	1	Dummer	Androscoggin River	C. Martin, E. Saxon
<b>Razorbill</b>				
07-08	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca, D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Black Guillemot</b>				
06-10	3	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-30	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
07-30	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>				
07-31	2	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, D. DeLuca, J. Charpentiere, A. LeFrancois

## Doves, Cuckoos, Owls, Nightjars, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers

An albino Mourning Dove was photographed in Goffstown.

As the summer season drew to a close, an adult **Boreal Owl** was seen on Mt. Pierce. Shortly thereafter, in early August, owlets were spotted. The implications of this fantastic find will be discussed the next (Fall) issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

The Great Horned Owls in Newmarket and the Barred Owls in Nottingham were nests containing both adults and chicks. Likewise, the Black-backed Woodpeckers from Dummer were all nesting birds with young.

It was good to see so many reports of the *threatened* Common Nighthawk. Keene appears to have a significant colony; we received many reports and have published a representative sample below. See page 33 for a summary of the Common Nighthawk Survey that also took place in a portion of the state.

Common Nighthawk  
by Iain MacLeod



<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Mourning Dove</b>				
07-06	1	Goffstown	112 Elm St.	J. Falcone
07-29	83	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				
06-11	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
06-30	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-07	1	Durham	Lamprey R. Nature Conservancy property	G. Gavutis, Jr.
07-09	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois, R. Suomala
07-10	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
07-12	3	Deerfield	powerline study site, Coffertown Rd.	D. Wells, C. Manning, J. Thompson
07-20	1	Lee	powerline study site, Snell Rd. e.	D. Wells, C. Manning, J. Thompson
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>				
06-12	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>				
06-22	3	Newmarket	Moody Point	S. Mirick
<b>Barred Owl</b>				
June	4	Nottingham	Brustle Rd.	N. Smart
07-15	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-17	1	Center Harbor	Old Meredith Rd.	J. Merrill
07-31	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
<b>Boreal Owl</b>				
07-29	1	Beans Grant	Mt. Pierce, Webster Cliff Trail	R. & N. Sawyer
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>				
06-30	1	Walpole	residence	H. Beck
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				
06-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
06-04	3	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-07	3	Keene	Central Square	R. Ritz
06-10	2	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgley
06-30	4	Keene	Colony Mill	M. Wright
07-15	2	Franklin	downtown	P. Hunt
07-22	1	Berlin	Bartlett School, Mt. Forist St.	K. Dube
07-28	2	Keene	K-mart	M. Wright
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>				
06-03	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd. residence	R. Ritz
06-05	1	Warner	Schoodac Brook	M. Liszka
06-06	3	Webster	Deer Meadow Rd. and Brook	B. & H. Janeway
06-08	2	Bath	Rt. 135	S. & M. Turner
<b>Chimney Swift</b>				
06-04	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
07-19	11	Bradford/Warner	downtown	P. Newbern
07-28	14	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-29	15	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>				
06-06	1	Durham	Davis Avenue	S. Mirick, S. Standley
06-11	1	Stratham	Rt. 108 just s. of Swampscott Rd.	G. Gavutis, III, G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-17	1	Kensington	Cottage Rd.	A.& B. Delorey
06-24	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>				
06-09	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
06-24	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-29	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>				
06-08	1	Carroll	Mt. Martha	B. Taffe
06-14	2	Dummer	Rt. 16	S.& M. Turner
06-15	1	Beans Purchase	Wildcat Ridge	K. Adams, A. Ports
06-23	2	Cambridge	Rt. 16	K. Dube, B. Sommers, L. Farrar, et al.
07-01	2	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-12	4	Dummer	Bayview Cabin, Rt. 16	C. Martin

## Flycatchers

On Sunday, June 3, Pam Hunt reported to the NH.Birds listserv that her weekly census in Northfield yielded a “Flycatcher Grand Slam:” all nine of New Hampshire’s breeding species.

Flycatcher observations were fairly normal for the summer. Kimball Elkins’ “A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire” shows a two-week “blip” (last week of May, first week of June) of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in the southern half of the state but common all summer in the north, and that was mirrored in the reports submitted to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Willow Flycatchers are primarily a southern New Hampshire bird, but we had several nice sightings in the North Country. Tony Vazzano remarked that his observation was the “first time in about eight years here.”

The five Eastern Phoebes in Gilsum were two adults parenting three young that were “well feathered but still had baby gapes.” The Eastern Kingbird in Nashua was reported “on nest.”

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>				
06-03	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-05	1	Woodstock	Elbow Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
06-11	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgley, G. Tudor
06-12	4		Franconia BBS route	S. Turner
06-16	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	R. Woodward
06-30	1	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen
07-05	1	Alexandria	Washburn Rd. wetland	P. Newbern

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>				
06-05	3	Woodstock	Rt. 118 lumber cuts	J. Williams
06-09	13	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				
06-03	1	Northfield	Arch Park	P. Hunt
06-04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-09	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
06-10	3		Jefferson Highlands BBS	S.& M. Turner
06-24	6	Columbia	Mount Pleasant	R. Quinn, C. Bretton, K. Bronson
06-29	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-08	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Donsker, C. Kepler
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				
06-03	3	Plymouth	Chaison Rd. wet meadow	J. Williams
06-04	11	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-11	5	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	A.& B. Delorey
07-01	7	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-15	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-22	3	Plymouth	Chaison Rd. field	J. Williams
07-27	2	Canterbury	sod farm swale	R. Quinn
07-28	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>				
06-01	2	Merrimack	Thornton's Ferry	R. Andrews
06-03	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry W.S.	S.& M. Turner
06-09	2	Lisbon	Cole Plain swamp	S. Turner
06-10	1	Shelburne	near Androscoggin River	S.& M. Turner
06-17	1	Plymouth	Chaison Rd. meadow	J. Williams
06-26	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Aaronian
06-30	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, J. Salander
07-22	1	Plymouth	Chaison Rd. field	J. Williams
07-27	7	Canterbury	sod farm pond	R. Quinn
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>				
06-09	12	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
06-16	5	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-23	6	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
07-01	8	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				
06-25	4	New London	auto survey route	A.& R. Vernon
07-21	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>				
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-23	2	Hollis	Rocky Pond	B. Harris
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				
07-11	3	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois, R. Suomala
07-13	1	Nashua	Tinker Rd.	J. Thompson
07-22	10	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

## Vireos, Jays & Crows Horned Lark, Swallows

There were several sightings of Yellow-throated Vireos, including one from Woodstock near the northern edge of this species' breeding range in the state. Several birders had large numbers of Red-eyed Vireos.

Family groups of Gray Jays were observed in Columbia in June and in Errol and Cambridge in July.

A **Purple Martin** at Prescott Farm in Laconia was our only report of that *endangered* species. **Cliff Swallows**, a *species of conservation concern*, were seen in several areas this summer. John Williams reported "19 active nests" in a barn in Plymouth in late June and a "late breeding pair" in another barn at the end of July. Bank Swallows showed their colonial, burrow nesting behavior: the sighting in Merrimack reported 40 active nests, Monroe about 100 holes, and Northfield around 50 nest holes.

Fish Crow reports from the Concord area are more frequent than they were ten years ago, with one almost every year now for the last several years.

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>				
06-05	1	Woodstock	Walker Brook transect, WMNF	L. Prout
06-08	6	Keene	Ashuelot Park by the river	D. Ball
06-23	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
06-30	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>				
06-04	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-23	5	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
07-01	8	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-03	7	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>				
06-15	1	Pittsburg	Rt. 3	R. Woodward
06-24	1	Columbia	near Cranberry Bog Pond	R. Quinn, C. Bretton, K. Bronson
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>				
06-23	25	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-25	15	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-30	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-30	18	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-01	10	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-03	24	Woodstock	Lost River area, WMNF	J. Williams
<b>Gray Jay</b>				
06-05	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-25	2	Columbia	Bunnell Mountain	R. Quinn, C. Bretton, L. Reitsma
06-28	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-19	3	Cambridge	Bog Brook bog	C. Martin
07-27	3	Errol	near Eames Road	C. Martin

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Fish Crow</b>				
07-11	1	Concord	Loudon Rd.	P. Newbern
<b>Common Raven</b>				
06-16	1	Exeter	north of Rt. 101	S. Mirick, A. Ablowich
06-23	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
06-29	3	Pittsburg	Rt. 3	E. Nielsen
07-10	1	Lee	near gravel pits	S. Mirick
<b>Horned Lark</b>				
06-23	2	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
<b>Purple Martin</b>				
06-08	2	Laconia	Prescott Farm	A. McIntyre
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				
06-25	10	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
07-02	16	Pittsburg	Tabor Road	E. Nielsen
07-08	63	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-15	45	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b>				
06-10	1	Shelburne	Androscoggin River	S. & M. Turner
06-12	1		Franconia BBS route	S. Turner
07-07	8	Portsmouth	Banfield Road	S. Mirick
<b>Bank Swallow</b>				
06-01	40 nests	Merrimack	Thornton's Ferry	R. Andrews
06-03	10	Sandwich	Rt. 113 gravel pit	T. Vazzano
06-07	150	Monroe	sandpit n. of Barnet Bridge	S. Turner
06-11	20	Freedom	Nature Conservancy trail, Ossipee Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgley, G. Tudor
06-19	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
07-15	50	Northfield	Sandogardy Pond Road	P. Hunt
<b>Cliff Swallow</b>				
06-15	10 nests	Meredith	Moulton Farm	J. Merrill
06-18	8	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-19	2	Conway	WalMart, N. Conway	J. Day
06-23	40	Plymouth	Bridgewater Hill Rd. barn	J. Williams
07-01	12	Pittsburg	Partridge Cabins	E. Nielsen
07-02	25	Pittsburg	Tabor Road	E. Nielsen
07-29	2	Plymouth	Govonni's Barn, Rt. 3A	J. Williams

## Chickadees, Nuthatches Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers

A good representation of Boreal Chickadees were reported, with some observers getting very impressive numbers.

A male **Sedge Wren**, an *endangered* species, appeared at West Foss Farm in Durham on July 25 and continued to be seen and heard daily through the first few days of August. On July 29, a second Sedge Wren (presumably female) joined the first, and several birders got the opportunity to see and hear them.

The Eastern Bluebird family in Kensington was well documented through several breeding stages, from nest building on June 3, sitting on four eggs on June 18, feeding nestlings on July 5, through fledged young on July 16. Although not included in the *New Hampshire Bird Records* listings below, breeding information is very valuable to the NHBR database. Thanks for including it.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>				
06-15	14	Pittsburg		R. Woodward
06-25	3	Columbia	Bunnell Mountain	R. Quinn, K. Bronson
06-28	2	Errol	Tidswell Pt. woods road	C. Martin
06-28	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-01	2	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-03	6	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen
07-08	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Donsker, C. Kepler
07-19	1	Errol	Mollidgewock St. Pk.	C. Martin
07-19	1	Cambridge	Rt. 16, Bog Brook pullout	C. Martin
07-30	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley
<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>				
06-25	1	New London	auto survey route	A.& R. Vernon
07-01	13	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-03	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>				
07-29	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Brown Creeper</b>				
06-29	1	Rumney	Quincy Bog	A. Ports
<b>Carolina Wren</b>				
07-07	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
07-08	1	New Castle	downtown	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
<b>Winter Wren</b>				
06-11	6	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	A.& B. Delorey
06-18	2	New London	Bunker Loop trail	R. Vernon
06-25	2	New London	auto survey route	A.& R. Vernon
06-29	3	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	B. Taffe
07-01	27	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Sedge Wren</b>				
07-25	1	Durham	West Foss Farm	S. Mirick
07-29	2	Durham	West Foss Farm	S. Mirick, et al.
<b>Marsh Wren</b>				
07-13	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	D. Wells, C. Manning
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>				
07-01	34	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-03	19	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>				
06-24	2	Columbia	near Cranberry Bog Pond	R. Quinn, C. Bretton, K. Bronson
07-03	6	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>				
06-30	3	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams



# Thrushes, Mockingbirds & Thrashers, Pipits, Waxwings

A **Northern Wheatear** at the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge presented itself during a field trip for two Audubon Society of New Hampshire Chapters, the Capital Area and the Monadnock Chapters. This is the first summer record for that species. There have been only six records since the early 1960s, all of which were during the month of September (1972 – Rye, 1981 – Dixville Notch, 1982 – Seabrook, 1988 – Peterborough, 1990 – Bristol). This summer's sighting was one of an unprecedented invasion of Northern Wheatear reports in the Northeast this spring and early summer. There were a record 51 reports in May from the Northeast US and Eastern Canada, the majority of which (42) were in Newfoundland. The Pondicherry bird was one of four in June – 1 in Vermont and 2 in Quebec.

The large number of Bicknell's Thrushes heard on the Nature Conservancy's new 10,330-acre Vickie Bunnell Preserve in Colebrook by a survey team in late June was a very welcome report on that *species of conservation concern*. The Swainson's Thrush heard in Alexandria was a nice find for central New Hampshire.

The numbers of Cedar Waxwings that can be found in Pittsburg is certainly impressive. The small flock that passed by White & Seavey Islands in late July was likely a precursor to the larger flocks that visit nearby Appledore and Star Islands in the fall to feed on the many berries that ripen in late summer and early fall.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>				
06-03	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski, K. Dube, C. Bretton, et al.
<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>				
06-03	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-05	6	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
07-09	2	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
07-13	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
<b>Veery</b>				
06-04	6	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-05	8	Woodstock	Lost River area, WMNF	J. Williams
06-09	13	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
06-23	5	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
07-03	8	Woodstock	Lost River area, WMNF	J. Williams
07-15	9	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Bicknell's Thrush</b>				
06-08	3	Carroll	Mt. Martha	B. Taffe
06-09	2	Livermore	Nancy Pond Trail	R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg
06-25	10	Columbia	Bunnell Mountain	R. Quinn, C. Bretton, L. Reitsma
07-08	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Donsker, C. Kepler
<b>Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush sp.</b>				
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>				
06-04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-12	4		Franconia BBS route	S. Turner
06-29	26	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-03	20	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen
07-05	1	Alexandria	Washburn Rd.	P. Newbern
07-23	1	Ellsworth	Ellsworth Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>				
06-04	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-18	11	Woodstock	Lost River transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-23	10	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
07-01	20	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-03	20	Woodstock	Lost River transect, WMNF	J. Williams
<b>Wood Thrush</b>				
06-10	6	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-12	11		Franconia BBS route	S. Turner
<b>American Robin</b>				
06-25	14	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
07-01	29	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-22	44	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>				
06-03	2	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	R. & J. Williams
06-09	3	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward
06-14	2	Rumney	residence	A. & C. Ports
06-17	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	T. & L. Chase
06-23	6	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward Capital Area Chapter FT
07-29	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>American Pipit</b>				
06-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>				
06-23	23	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-29	36	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-30	51	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen
07-01	43	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-20	6	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

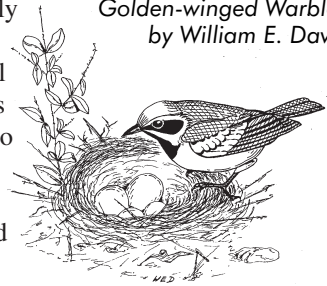
## Wood Warblers

Summer is “Warbler Season,” and we received many good reports on warblers. Most are typical of the season and location.

The Tennessee Warbler observation most likely represents the tail-end of migration but the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* included a “probable breeder” just southeast of the Pondicherry region, so there is some chance it was a resident. Another curiously possible breeder was the Canada Warbler seen at Great Bay NWR on June 4. It was a singing male, causing the observer to wonder if it was a “late migrant or on territory?”

Eric Nielsen makes a fairly extensive late June/early July survey of the Pittsburg area every year and continues to record impressive numbers of several species of wood warbler. John Williams continued his transect surveys in Lost River for the WMNF, also reporting his results to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. He surveyed three transects this summer, but only some of his highest counts are recorded below.

Golden-winged Warbler  
by William E. Davis



Three observers noted breeding evidence in reporting Oven-birds, a shy species more often heard than seen.

This was the final year of a two-year study of the role powerline rights-of-way play in providing nesting and/or foraging habitats for shrubland birds. Project Coordinator Diane Wells reported that a total of 57 species used the shrubby habitat during Summer 2001 (see page 34). Many were common species, but the biologists also found less usual warbler species such as **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, and Louisiana Waterthrush (listed below). Next summer powerline rights-of-way might be worth checking out!

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>				
	4	Durham	powerline study site, Rt. 155	D. Wells, C. Manning, J. Thompson
	5	Madbury	powerline study site, Madbury Rd.	D. Wells, et al.
	3	Lee	powerline study site, Snell Rd. w.	D. Wells, et al.
07-18	1	Northwood	powerline study site, Rt. 202	D. Wells, et al.
<b>Golden-winged Warbler</b>				
07-03	1	Northwood	powerline study site, Rt. 202	D. Wells, C. Manning, J. Thompson
<b>Brewster's Warbler — hybrid</b>				
	1	Lee	powerline study site, Snell Rd. e.	D. Wells, C. Manning, J. Thompson
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>				
06-04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
<b>Nashville Warbler</b>				
06-04	14	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-05	1	Woodstock	Elbow Pond Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
06-07	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-17	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-23	3	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-29	15	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
<b>Northern Parula</b>				
06-04	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-09	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-16	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
06-18	1	New London	Bunker Loop trail	R. Vernon
06-18	1	Woodstock	n. end of Rt. 118, WMNF	J. Williams
07-01	13	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-10	1	Thornton	West Branch Rd., WMNF	J. Williams

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>				
06-04	12	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-23	5	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-25	2	New London	auto survey route	A.& R. Vernon
06-30	8	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>				
06-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-04	6	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-05	3	Woodstock	Elbow Pond Rd.	J. Williams
06-09	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-23	9	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
07-01	38	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-10	2	Ellsworth	Ellsworth Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>				
06-23	7	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-25	5	Rumney	n. of Stinson Mtn., WMNF	J. Williams
07-03	11	Woodstock	Lost River area, WMNF	J. Williams
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>				
06-04	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-14	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-23	8	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-29	17	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	21	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-08	6	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>				
06-07	3	Hopkinton	Hooksett Tpk.	R. Woodward
06-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-23	7	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-25	3	New London	auto survey route	A.& R. Vernon
07-01	12	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-03	17	Woodstock	Lost River area, WMNF	J. Williams
07-26	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>				
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-05	6	Woodstock	Lost River area, WMNF	J. Williams
06-09	7	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
06-23	7	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
<b>Pine Warbler</b>				
06-10	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-19	6	Center Harbor	Old Meredith Rd.	J. Merrill
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>				
06-11	3	Freedom	Nature Conservancy trail, Ossipee Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgley, G. Tudor
06-23	8	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward
07-05	2	Alexandria	Mt. Cardigan Rd. near power lines	P. Newbern
<b>Palm Warbler</b>				
06-28	1	Errol	Tidswell Point woods road	C. Martin
07-19	1	Cambridge	Bog Brook bog	C. Martin

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>				
06-11	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	A. & B. Delorey
06-24	1	Columbia	Mount Pleasant	R. Quinn, C. Bretton, K. Bronson
06-29	19	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	5	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>				
06-03	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-04	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-04	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	R. & J. Williams
06-08	12	Carroll	Mt. Martha	B. Taffe
06-29	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-08	4	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Donsker, C. Kepler
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>				
06-09	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
<b>American Redstart</b>				
06-09	29	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-17	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-23	7	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-29	18	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	13	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
06-03	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-04	8	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-09	16	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-18	5	New London	Bunker Loop trail	R. Vernon
06-18	16	Woodstock	Lost River area, WMNF	J. Williams
06-23	11	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-25	8	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>				
06-18	2	Woodstock	Elbow Pond Rd.	J. Williams
06-23	2	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-29	4	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	B. Taffe
07-01	3	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-05	1	Danbury	North Road	P. Newbern
07-08	1	Northfield	Schribner Road	P. Hunt
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>				
06-08	1	Northwood	powerline study site, Rt. 202	D. Wells, C. Manning, J. Thompson
06-09	1	Laconia	Prescott Farm Audubon Center	P. Hunt
06-11	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
06-17	1	Hampton Falls	Sanborn Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-30	2	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
<b>Mourning Warbler</b>				
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-10	2		Jefferson Highlands BBS route	S. & M. Turner
06-11	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	A. & B. Delorey
06-22	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Suomala
06-23	1	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala

### Mourning Warbler — cont.

06-24	3	Columbia	Mount Pleasant	R. Quinn, C. Bretton, K. Bronson
06-25	7	Columbia	Bunnell Mountain	R. Quinn, K. Bronson
06-30	2	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-11	2	Pittsburg	Harris Pond	C. Martin
07-30	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley

### Common Yellowthroat

06-04	15	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-23	10	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
07-01	25	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	18	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-08	10	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

### Wilson's Warbler

06-28	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	1	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-03	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen

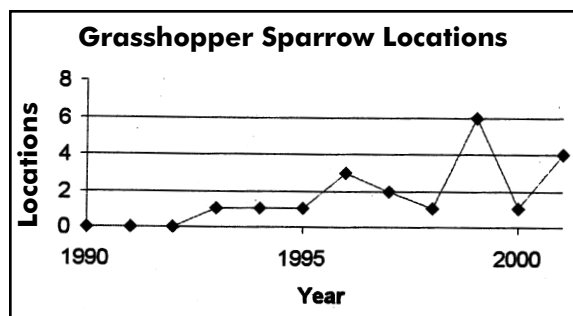
### Canada Warbler

06-04	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-04	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
06-05	5	Woodstock	Elbow Pond Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
06-22	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Suomala
06-23	4	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-29	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen

## Tanagers, Sparrows & Towhees, Cardinals & Allies, (Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Buntings)

Since 1990, the number of locations where Grasshopper Sparrows are being observed has been increasing, as shown in the chart below. The Grasshopper Sparrow reported at the Old Mill Road gravel pit was first heard in the spring and reported by the observer on several occasions during the summer, last reported on July 10.

It's good to see reports of the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow from so many different locations and also of a Seaside Sparrow, both *species of conservation concern*. The Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow observed at the Isles of Shoals was the second consecutive year for a "Nelson's" in this offshore location.



Six-year-old Megan Rumph, of New Castle, had one of the spectacular finds of the summer, a very rare **Painted Bunting**. Megan observed the bunting at her feeder, and, using an age-old method, thumbed through a field guide until she saw a bird that matched to make the correct identification. The bird stayed for a couple of days, permitting several local birders to see and photograph it. This was the first sighting since 1979 and only the sixth for the State since the early 1960s.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				
06-09	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-12	2		Franconia BBS route	S. Turner
07-01	3	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
07-02	1	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
07-22	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-28	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>				
06-11	12	Freedom	Nature Conservancy trail, Ossipee Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgley, G. Tudor
06-23	8	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
06-30	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-04	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
07-05	2	Danbury	Ragged Mtn. Rd. near golf course	P. Newbern
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-11	8	Freedom	Nature Conservancy trail, Ossipee Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgley, G. Tudor
06-23	17	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>				
06-03	8	Tamworth	Rt. 113 gravel pit at Sandwich line	T. Vazzano
06-11	6	Freedom	Nature Conservancy trail, Ossipee Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgley, G. Tudor
06-23	8	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
06-01	1	Merrimack	behind Anheuser-Busch brewery	R. Andrews
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-08	2	Plymouth	Smith Bridge Rd.	A. Ports
06-22	1	Newmarket	off Bay Road	S. Mirick
06-25	2	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
07-02	4	Pittsburg	Tabor Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-21	3	Plymouth	Lake Tarleton fields, WMNF	J. Williams
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b>				
06-01	3	Merrimack	behind Anheuser-Busch brewery	R. Andrews
06-09	1	Lee	Old Mill Road gravel pit	S. Mirick
06-23	3	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
07-28	6	Amherst	cemetery fields	P. Hunt, P. Theriaut, C. Laffen, L. Peck

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow</b>				
06-03	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier
06-04	2	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-25	5	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
<b>Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow</b>				
06-22	8	Newmarket	off Bay Road	S. Mirick
06-25	10	Newfields	railroad trestle marsh	S. Mirick
06-25	7	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
07-07	5	Rye	marshes off Brackett Road	S. Mirick
07-20	6	Hampton	Rt.101 marsh	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Sharp-tailed Sparrow sp.</b>				
07-13	10	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	D. Wells, C. Manning
07-18	8	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	D. Wells
<b>Seaside Sparrow</b>				
06-15	1	Hampton	Hampton marshes	R. Frechette
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-11	1	Wentworths Location	Magalloway R., Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
06-30	8	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-30	11	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	21	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-07	1	Errol	Round Pond	K. Dube
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
06-04	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS access trail	M. Suomala
06-12	2	Plymouth	Chaison Rd. wet meadow	J. Williams
06-29	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>				
06-29	47	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-30	31	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	79	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				
06-11	3	Freedom	Nature Conservancy trail, Ossipee Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgley, G. Tudor
06-18	1	New London	Bunker Loop trail	R. Vernon
06-23	3	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
06-30	1	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	3	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
07-31	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>Painted Bunting</b>				
06-13	1	New Castle	residence	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lehman, D. Finch, D. Hughes

## Blackbirds, Orioles & Allies, Finches & Allies

**R**usty Blackbirds appeared in many locations in the North Country, a good representation for this *species of conservation concern*. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** appears in the state about every two years, and one was found in East Kingston in 2001. It was



the second time that this species was seen in East Kingston; the previous time was 1996. Does that make East Kingston the Yellow-headed Blackbird capital of New Hampshire? The Orchard Orioles reported in Kensington were seen throughout June and July and fledged two young. We received a larger than usual number of reports of Evening Grosbeaks, almost twice the average of the past decade.

The rarest sighting from these families, however, was a **European Goldfinch**, a congener with the Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Goldfinches. It's difficult to be certain of the origin of the bird seen in Barrington, but, according to the *Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*, "... (these) finches... have many advantages as pets... (and) escaped birds can create feral populations in the milder parts of North America." There are no known nesting records for this species in New Hampshire, and reports of this species are most likely to be escaped pets.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Bobolink</b>				
06-03	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
06-10	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	B. Taffe
06-25	3	New London	auto survey route	A.& R. Vernon
06-28	4	Shelburne	Village Rd. near bridge	K. Dube
06-30	12	Pittsburg	Hall & Indian Stream Rds.	E. Nielsen
07-04	1	Plymouth	Chaison Rd. fields	J. Williams
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>				
06-01	5	Merrimack	behind AB brewery	R. Andrews
06-23	2	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
07-29	1	Northfield	Arch Park	P. Hunt
<b>Yellow-headed Blackbird</b>				
06-04	1	E. Kingston	Marston farm, Giles Rd.	R.& J. Marston, S. Mirick, D. Finch, et al.
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>				
06-05	4	Woodstock	Elbow Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
06-07	2	Whitefield	Whitefield airport	M.& R. Suomala
06-17	1	Pittsburg	Norton Pool	R. Woodward
06-24	2	Columbia	near Cranberry Bog Pond	R. Quinn, C. Bretton, K. Bronson
06-29	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-30	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-02	5	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd. to Cedar	E. Nielsen
07-11	14	Pittsburg	Harris Pond	C. Martin
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>				
06-10	6	Stratham	Rt. 108 s. of Swamscott Rd. jct.	G. Gavutis
07-20	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>				
06-01	2	Keene	Ashuelot River	D. Ball
06-03	1	Durham	Churchill's Garden center	G. Prazar
06-08	2	Rumney	residence	A. Ports
06-15	2	Meredith	Moulton Farm	J. Merrill
06-25	1	New London	auto survey route	A.& R. Vernon
07-03	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Baltimore Oriole — cont.</b>				
07-08	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-17	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
07-31	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
<b>Purple Finch</b>				
06-01	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
06-09	3	Rumney	residence	A. Ports
06-23	5	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-28	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow feeder	M. Wright
06-30	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-01	15	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-13	2	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. & R. Williams
07-15	2	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
<b>Red Crossbill</b>				
06-10	15	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	T. Vazzano BBC FT
06-19	3	Albany	Dugway Rd. BBS Route	T. Vazzano
06-22	2	Newbury	John Hay NWR	R. Quinn
07-08	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>				
06-10	2	Gorham	Rt. 16	S. & M. Turner
06-25	8	Columbia	Bunnell Mountain	R. Quinn, K. Bronson
07-03	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Pine Siskin</b>				
06-09	30	Rumney	residence	A. Ports
06-12	10		Franconia BBS route	S. Turner
06-23	4	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
07-01	1	Pittsburg	Timberland	E. Nielsen
07-08	5	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Donsker, C. Kepler
07-12	3	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
<b>European Goldfinch</b>				
07-01	1	Barrington	Berry River Rd. near Long Pond	R. Costello
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>				
06-05	2	Hopkinton	Straw Rd. residence	N. & J. Harris
06-12	1		Franconia BBS route	S. Turner
06-16	2	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. & R. Williams
06-16	2	Durham	off Madbury Road	S. Mirick, A. Ablowich
06-23	3	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. Suomala
06-24	2	Hillsboro	Emerald Lake vicinity	B. Harris, et al.
06-28	3	Canterbury	Hackleboro Rd.	R. Quinn
06-30	2	Rumney	residence	A. Ports
07-01	3	Allenstown	Bear Brook St. Pk.	R. Quinn, T. Vazzano
07-01	9	Walpole	Merriam Rd. residence	R. Ritz
07-01	7	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-03	2	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
07-09	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	B. & R. Becker, R. Kennedy
07-11	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-15	1	Northfield	Sandogardy Pond Road	P. Hunt
07-17	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
07-22	2	Lyman	residence	S. Turner

# Common Nighthawk Survey

by Teresa Lorenz

**A** survey of Common Nighthawks was conducted in selected New Hampshire cities and towns in the summer of 2001. Statewide nighthawk surveys had been conducted throughout the 1980s, until 1991, with urban populations of nighthawks showing a gradual yet persistent decline. As a follow-up study, the purpose of the 2001 survey was to determine if nighthawk populations were still on the decline.

Twenty-three volunteers were involved in surveying 20 study sites, and results were received from 17 of them. It is important to note that the 2001 survey only took place in towns in the lower Merrimack River Valley. The large urban areas, including Nashua, Manchester, and Concord, were divided into several sites and split among volunteers. The smaller urban areas were each surveyed by one volunteer. With the exception of one site, the 2001 study sites had been surveyed at least once in the past. Volunteers collected data by walking, riding a bike, or driving around their study sites and listening and watching for calling and feeding nighthawks. Surveys were conducted in the twilight hours of dusk and dawn. When nighthawks were sighted, the volunteers recorded the number of birds observed and their behavior.

Unfortunately, the results of the 2001 survey revealed that numbers of nighthawks in the selected towns have indeed dropped since 1981 (Figure 1). Since the surveys were first conducted, Concord has boasted the highest number of nighthawks of the selected towns. Yet even in Concord, populations have declined from 25 resident individuals in the 1980s to eight in 2001. Manchester and Nashua supported as many as 16 and eight individuals, respectively, in the 1980s. Yet nighthawks were not reported in either of these towns in 2001.

While the results of the 2001 nighthawk survey indicate population declines, the study methods had many shortcomings due to timing constraints and the availability of volunteers. It is hoped that a comprehensive statewide survey can be undertaken in the future to gain a more complete understanding of the status of Common Nighthawks in New Hampshire.

*Teresa Lorenz was the 2001 Nighthawk Survey Coordinator and has been a seasonal field biologist for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. She is a student at Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana.*

**Maximum number of nighthawks reported at each site on one day per observer in selected New Hampshire towns from 1981–2001. Dashes indicate no survey was conducted.**

Site	2001	1991	1990	1980s*
Allenstown	0	—	0	—
Concord	8	14	13	25
Contoocook	0	—	—	—
Hudson	0	—	2	10
Londonderry/Derry	0	0	—	2
Manchester	0	5	5	16
Nashua	0	3	2	8
Franklin	1	5	—	6
Pembroke	0	—	—	0
Warner	0	1	—	5
Tilton	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>72</b>

\*maximum number ever recorded at each site from 1981–1989.

# Powerline Rights-of-Way as Nesting Habitat for Shrubland Birds

## 2001 Field Season Summary

by Diane Wells

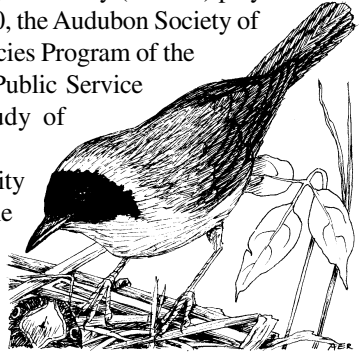
In an effort to understand the role that powerline rights-of-way (ROW's) play in providing nesting habitat for shrubland birds, in 2000, the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the Nongame and Endangered Species Program of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, and Public Service of New Hampshire embarked on a two-year study of ROW's in southeastern New Hampshire.

The summer of 2001 offered a wonderful diversity of species as a total of 57 were observed using the shrubby habitat for nesting and/or foraging and the powerlines for perching. As in the 2000 field season, our most common nesting species included Gray Catbirds, Common Yellowthroats, Prairie Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Eastern Towhees, Song Sparrows, and Field Sparrows. Alder Flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, Blue-winged Warblers, Yellow Warblers, Indigo Buntings, and American Goldfinches also made a showing, with nests scattered throughout the study sites. Some of our more interesting observations this summer included those having to do with the furtive Black-billed Cuckoo, a species we documented as nesting in two locations. And mention must be made of the resourceful pair of Pileated Woodpeckers that nested in a powerline pole.

Data from the two field seasons is in the process of being analyzed, but it is safe to say that ROW's are providing an increasingly rare nesting habitat for a number of species that appear to be experiencing population declines throughout eastern North America.

Below is a sample of the numbers of some of the more common species at our study sites in 2001. See the season listings for other species such as Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers, and Black-billed Cuckoos.

Species	#	Town	study site
<i>Alder Flycatcher</i>	8	Madbury	Madbury Rd.
<i>Gray Catbird</i>	8	Deerfield	Coffertown Rd.
	10	Northwood	Rt. 202
<i>Chestnut-sided Warbler</i>	10	Durham	Rt. 155
	8	Lee	Snell Rd. e.
	8	Northwood	Rt. 202
<i>Prairie Warbler</i>	14	Deerfield	Brown Rd.



Common Yellowthroat  
by Andrea Robbins

Species	#	Town	study site
<i>Prairie Warbler</i> — cont.	11	Deerfield	Coffertown Rd.
	18	Deerfield	Reservation Rd.
	9	Durham	Rt. 155
	6	Lee	Snell Rd. e.
	6	Madbury	Madbury Rd.
	10	Northwood	Rt. 202
<i>Eastern Towhee</i>	8	Deerfield	Brown Rd.
	6	Deerfield	Coffertown Rd.
	10	Deerfield	Reservation Rd.
	10	Durham	Rt. 155
	6	Lee	Snell Rd. e.
	7	Madbury	Madbury Rd.
<i>Field Sparrow</i>	6	Northwood	Rt. 202
	7	Deerfield	Brown Rd.
<i>Indigo Bunting</i>	6	Deerfield	Coffertown Rd.
	3	Deerfield	Brown Rd.

**Observers:** *D. Wells, C. Manning, J. Thompson*

*Diane Wells' research is for her master's thesis as a graduate student at the University of Vermont. The project receives funding from the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the N.H. Fish & Game Department's Nongame Program, and Northeast Utilities.*

## Massabesic Bird Banding Station — 2001 Report

*by John Munier and Dorothy Fitch*

The 2001 season marked the fifth year of operation of the Massabesic Bird Banding Station, part of the continent-wide MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) project. MAPS, run by the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes, California, collects and analyzes data from over 500 banding stations across the U.S. and Canada in order to identify trends in bird populations. Our station is at the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn.

According to prescribed MAPS protocol, we band on seven mornings — one day in each of seven ten-day periods from June to August — for six hours, starting at dawn. In our five years of operation, we have banded a total of 188 birds, representing 38 species. This year, we banded 34 birds and captured three returning birds, one each from 1998, 1999, and 2000. These numbers are identical to last year's results. We also maintain a breeding bird survey of all species seen and heard at the station, and that list now totals 84 species. A vegetation study, done by Jeff Nelson, helps MAPS look at local habitat changes.

*Bird Banding — Continued on next page*

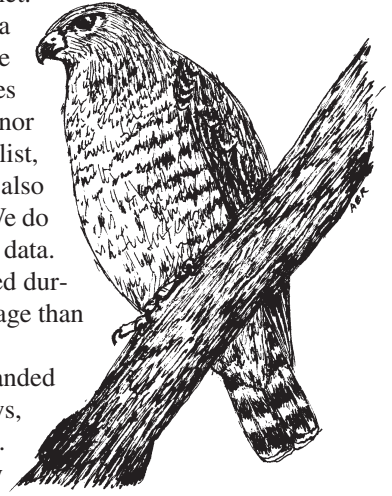
## 2001 Highlights

On the first morning, Becky Suomala returned to the station with a Broad-winged Hawk that she had safely extracted from a mist net. This was the station's first raptor and provided a good deal of banding excitement. On that same day, we also banded a Brown Thrasher, a species that was neither on our breeding bird survey list nor on the Massabesic Audubon Center's bird checklist, so its appearance was unexpected. This year, we also handled our first Ruby-throated Hummingbird. We do not band hummingbirds but record age and sex data. Ten of the birds we banded this year were hatched during the current breeding season, a higher percentage than in previous years.

In addition to the MAPS banding, we also banded many nestling chicks this year: 116 Tree Swallows, 11 Eastern Bluebirds, and six Tufted Titmice. This banding effort was part of a nest box study at the Massabesic Audubon Center that was coordinated by staff member, Lenny Lampel. The Tree Swallows received a numbered aluminum band and a red color band. The red band indicates it was banded in 2001 and a different colored band will be used each year so visitors to the center can tell the year the bird was hatched. The bluebirds received an aluminum band and three color bands, which allow individual birds to be identified without recapturing them.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank this year's "band-aides," the volunteers who are very important to the smooth operation of our banding efforts: Alex Chang, Sylvia Hartmann, Jane Hills, Jeff Nelson, Stephanie Parkinson, and Becky Suomala. If you would like to help at the banding station (no experience necessary), please contact [jmunier@post.harvard.edu](mailto:jmunier@post.harvard.edu), or call 603-437-7402.

In addition to their MAPS project, John Munier and Dorothy Fitch have served as banders and band-aides at the Appledore Island Migration Bird Banding Station on the Isle of Shoals for many years. In 2000, they were awarded the distinction of Volunteer of the Year by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire for their help with computer, chapter events, and bird banding programs.



Broad-winged Hawk  
by Andrea Robbins

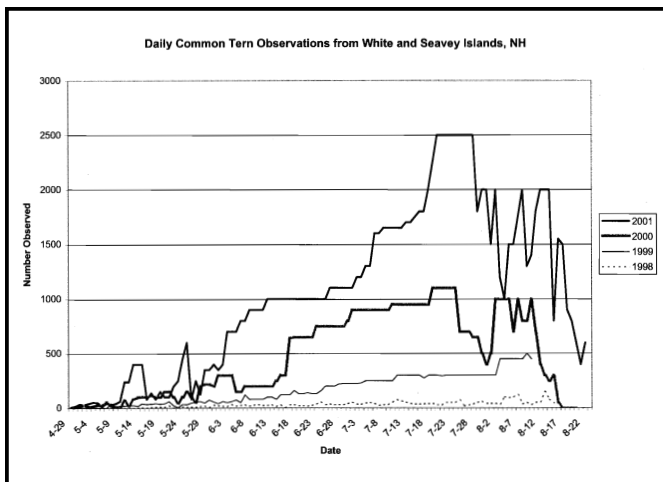
# White & Seavey Island Report

by Daniel Hayward

The seabird restoration effort at the Isles of Shoals continues to bring surprises. The Common Tern numbers continue to rise at a staggering rate since the project's inception in 1997. Figure 1 shows the increase in the number of birds seen each year. The number of nesting pairs rose from 446 pairs in 2000 to 809 pairs in 2001. The number of fledglings rose from around 700 to approximately 1100. The highlight of the Common Tern colony this summer was the confirmed successful nesting of birds that were hatched and banded on Seavey Island in 1998 and 1999. There were a number of pairs that settled in right around one of our blinds, which allowed us to easily read their band numbers. It couldn't have been more convenient.

With the Common Tern population steadily rising, the stage had been set for other tern species to start nesting. Throughout the 2001 season there were

Arctic Terns present, but the tern highlight of the summer came on the early morning walk of July 5. During the previous afternoon, a pair of Roseate Terns was observed hunkering down in a patch of yarrow, exhibiting signs of nesting. Upon closer inspection the next morning, there was a single egg being closely guarded by the two adults. The Roseate Terns were diligent in their duties, the male feeding the female and relieving her from time to time during incubation despite harassment from their close Common Tern neighbors. Their hard work and diligence paid off as the chick hatched at noon on July 28, with Diane DeLuca lucky enough to be watching as the event unfolded. Within a few days, the family moved to higher ground and into the confines of the taller grasses. On August 23, as we were packing to depart the islands for the season, we came across a Roseate Tern fledgling out on the rocks. It was taking short flights out over the water and eventually landed and ran into the grass where "our" chick had spent the past few weeks. With less than 24 hours left on the island, we were incredibly lucky to observe the fledging of the first Roseate Tern in more than fifty years. Our hopes are high that the Roseate Tern numbers will rise significantly next year, as we were seeing courtship activity such as nest scraping, feeding, and attempted copulation as late as the second week of August. Throughout the season, the



*White and Seavey Island — Continued on next page*

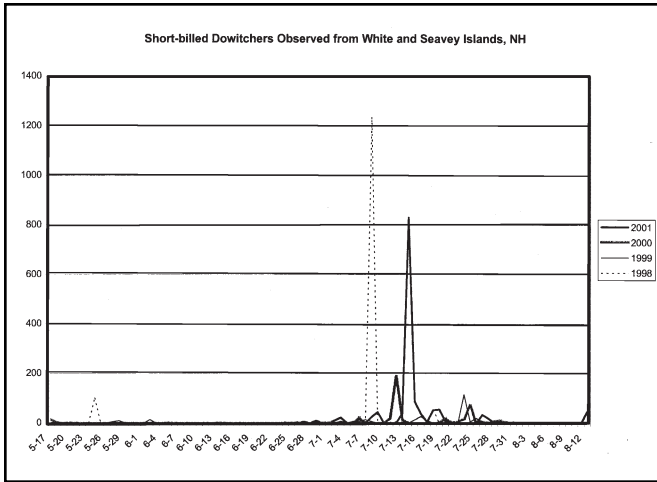
number of Roseate Terns present was higher than in previous years, with a one-day high of 83 individuals on August 12.

Three other tern species visited the islands this summer. On June 27, a single Least Tern flew around the colony a few times and then headed back towards the mainland. A Black Tern was seen flying around the perimeter of the colony on July 7, and a pair of adult Forster's Terns were seen on July 22 as well as a juvenile on August 11 and 12.

The habitat and location of the project at the Isles of Shoals gives us an opportunity to observe certain migrations and some otherwise infrequently seen species of birds. The shorebird migration brought some interesting days for us this summer. Short-billed Dowitchers came through on July 14. With only half of the day spent looking out over the water, we were able to count 830 passing the island. This was just a few days later than the over 1200 that were observed in 1998 (Figure 2). On July 28, we had 53 Whimbrels, which was 35 more than the previous high of 18 in 2000. The peeps moved through on August 20, and we were able to count 1392. Species of shorebirds identified that day were Least, Semipalmated, White-rumped, and Spotted Sandpipers; Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers; Lesser Yellowlegs; Red Knots; and Ruddy Turnstones. Of special note this summer were a few Purple Sandpipers in

June and July; they are usually gone by the end of May.

Northern Gannets and Wilson's Storm-Petrels, though not seen on a daily basis, were seen in numbers that were higher than the previous three seasons. The highest day count for gannets was on May 18 with 123. There were scattered sightings throughout the



summer months, but no days that came close to that number. The storm-petrels were frequent during the summer months, with a high of 40 seen on August 17. The previous high was 12 seen last season (Figure 3.).

Some of the other highlights from the summer months included a single American Oystercatcher and three species of alcids. There were two Razorbills seen on July 7 and two Atlantic Puffins seen on July 31. Black Guillemot sightings were lower than the previous three summers around White and Seavey Islands, but it was confirmed that they successfully nested on nearby Appledore Island in Maine. Our guillemot decoys continue to go out with the hope that they will give our island a try. For the other species that do nest on the island, Common Eider and Spotted Sandpipers each



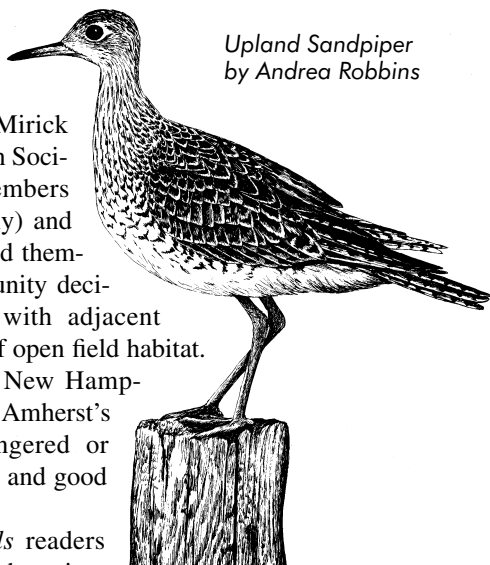
# Unexpected Research-Volunteer Opportunities

by Francie Von Mertens

**S**ome research and volunteer opportunities find us; we don't find them. That was the case for Steve Mirick and Pauline Theriault, active Audubon Society of New Hampshire chapter members (Seacoast and Nashaway, respectively) and board of trustee members. Both found themselves in the midst of heated community decision-making when athletic fields with adjacent parking were proposed in the place of open field habitat. In both cases — the University of New Hampshire's Moore Fields and the town of Amherst's Cemetery Fields — a state endangered or threatened bird species was involved, and good bird records came into play.

As *New Hampshire Bird Records* readers know, the Moore Fields area in Durham is a magnet to birds and birders. Wildlife habitat, as well as wetlands and water quality, became an issue when University of New Hampshire (UNH) announced plans to let a private soccer club build a 30-acre, 9½ soccer field complex at Moore Fields. Steve Mirick helped mobilize the birding community, assisted by the timely appearance of a few Upland Sandpipers, a state endangered species. Steve's photos, backed up by years of solid bird sighting records, helped the cause. Resistance also came from neighbors and the town of Durham, as well as from UNH professors, including Art Borrer, well-known leader of many an Audubon field trip and past ornithology professor at UNH.

"A Bird, Playing Fields and a Cemetery All Compete for Same Piece of Land" was a typical headline last spring and summer in Amherst. Of the 45 acres being considered for expanded playing fields, about half hosted at least three Grasshopper Sparrows, bringing the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department into the discussions. As with Moore Fields, the existence of an endangered bird species was not the main deciding factor in rejection of the athletic field proposals, but it was a definite contributing factor. Again, good bird records helped the cause, showing that Cemetery Fields is one of only four sites in the state where Grasshopper Sparrows have been reported recently, in addition to regularly hosting Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, and an occasional Vesper Sparrow. Pauline Theriault spoke before the planning board and selectmen as the debate continued and wrote an op-ed piece and letters to the editor, having done her homework to become an important source of information on grassland birds and habitat management in the process.



Upland Sandpiper  
by Andrea Robbins

*Volunteer Opportunities — Continued on next page*

Steve Mirick, in a June 12, 2001 e-mail to the NH.birds listserv announcing the cancellation of the proposed \$6 million soccer complex, wrote: "These fields are well known to local birders for the regular occurrence of many species of birds in migration, including Horned Larks, American Pipits, Snow Buntings, and many species of waterfowl and hawks. Regular nesting birds include American Kestrel, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Killdeer, and Spotted Sandpiper. Unusual bird sightings over the last few years include Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Rough-legged Hawk, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, American Golden Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Lapland Longspur, Vesper Sparrow, and, of course, most recently two or three Upland Sandpipers, a state endangered species.... I feel that it is important for birders to realize that keeping good data on bird sightings, submitting their data to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, and being politically active can have a significant impact on land-use planning and on preservation and protection of open space and critical bird habitat. Development is inevitable, and soccer fields may certainly be needed in our communities. However, prioritization and protection of critical habitat needs to be addressed early, and we as birders need to do our part. Since we are the active birders in the state, **we are the experts** on the birds of our local areas. Share that information with the local politicians and landowners!"

Amen.

---

### *White and Seavey Island — Continued from Page 38*

had more than ten nests, and a lone pair of Tree Swallows took up residence in one of the nest boxes on the catwalk.

Last summer, I tried to post some of the interesting happenings on the NH.Birds list serve and will again send periodic updates this summer. Don't hesitate to send questions, as we will be more than willing to answer them at [asnhterns@yahoo.com](mailto:asnhterns@yahoo.com). Until next year...

*Dan Hayward has been a seasonal field biologist for the Tern Restoration Project since 1998 and lives in Springfield, New Hampshire.*

*The Tern Restoration Project is a partnership between the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program of the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department in cooperation with many other partners. Diane De Luca, senior biologist with the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, is the Project Manager.*

## Can You Identify This Bird?

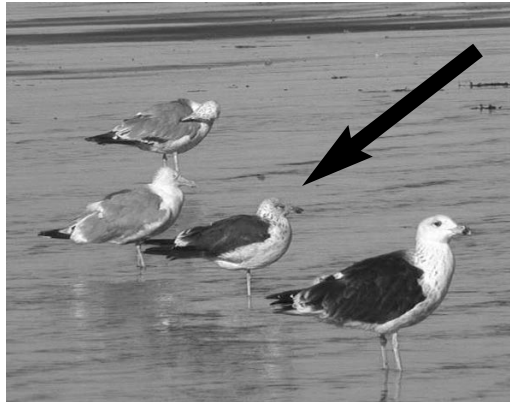


Answer in the next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.  
For the answer to the Spring 2001 photo quiz — turn the page.

## What Gull is That?

by Stephen R. Mirick

This photo ID quiz includes four birds standing on a beach. Now you probably don't need to pull out the *Sibley Guide to Birding* to quickly realize that they are gulls. Some might even say "sea" gulls. However, trying to identify what species they are may be a bit more difficult. There are eleven species of gulls that regularly occur in New Hampshire, and most of them have a variety of plumages that make identification tricky for even the most experienced birders.



One of the best ways to identify rare gulls is to know the common gulls well. Fortunately, Herring Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, and Great Black-backed Gulls are very common throughout the state and often abundant along the coast. Take the time to learn the differences in plumages between the different ages of the gulls and also the changes that take place due to feather wear and molt sequence. The largest gulls (Herring and Great Black-backed) take four years to reach their adult plumages, while the smaller gulls (Bonaparte's and Ring-billed) take only two to three years to reach their adult plumages. All gulls go through two molts each year, in the spring and fall.

In this photograph, we are presented with three gulls lined up next to each other for a nice comparison. None of them has the scaly brown pattern on the tops of the wings or the neck and body that most immature gulls show. This means that these are adult (or nearly adult) birds. The largest gull is on the right and it clearly has a very dark blackish back (or mantle) and a relatively large head, thick neck, and heavy bill. The only regularly occurring gull in the northeastern United States that has these field marks is the Great Black-backed Gull. The dark band around the bill indicates that the bird is not a full adult but is probably just over three years old.

The farthest gull on the left has a much lighter mantle coloration with dark wing tips and is noticeably smaller than the Great Black-backed Gull. It has a rather large bill with no obvious black ring around it such as a Ring-billed Gull would have. This combination indicates that the bird is a Herring Gull. The gull in back of it shows the same field marks and is also a Herring Gull.

The middle gull has a dark back, similar to the Great Black-backed Gull. However, the mantle coloration is a shade lighter, and the bird is noticeably smaller, with a longer wing extension and a smaller, more rounded head with moderate streaking. Although the back color is close to that of a Laughing Gull, the bird is only slightly smaller than the Herring Gull, and the bill is too large for a Laughing Gull and appears pale at the base. This combination of field marks indicates that the middle bird is a

Lesser Black-backed Gull and is the rarest bird in the group. The darkness on the end of the bill indicates that the bird is not quite a full adult and is probably just over three years old.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull is a European species that has expanded its range and is now seen regularly along the eastern coastline of the United States. Although still fairly rare in New Hampshire, the number of reports for Lesser Black-backed Gulls has increased significantly in the last five years. The species is most likely to be seen with large groups of Herring Gulls during the late fall and early spring, although it may be found in any month of the year. Some good places to check for this species are with large concentrations of gulls along the coast or at the Trails at Pickering Ponds near the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rochester.

This Lesser Black-backed Gull was photographed by the author on Jenness Beach in Rye on August 29, 2000.

*Stephen Mirick is the Fall Editor of New Hampshire Bird Records and a trustee of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.*

---

## **Coming Up in the Next Issue...**

### **More from Steve Mirick on Boreal Owls**



## Reporters for Summer 2001

Rich Aaronian	Davis Finch	Stephen Mirick	Rebecca Suomala
Michael Amaral	Rich Frechette	Peter Newbern	Bill Taffe
Ralph Andrews	Paddy Furness	Erik Nielsen	Sandra Turner
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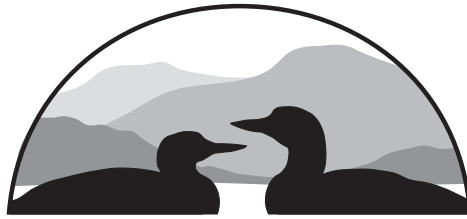
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*Volunteer Opportunities and Birding Research:* Francie Von Mertens, Susan Story Galt

### **Abbreviations Used**

ASNH	Audubon Society of NH	Rd.	Road
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Rt.	Route
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	SF	State Forest
CA	Conservation Area	St. Pk.	State Park
CC	Country Club	SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
FT	Field Trip	T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
L.	Lake	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee	WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
NA	Natural Area	WS	ASNH Wildlife Sanctuary
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records	~	approximately
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee		
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
R.	River		

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